

Oregon Makes History by Banning Gestation Crates

June 28, 2007

With a stroke of his pen, Oregon Governor Ted Kulongoski made a landmark advancement for farm animals today. He approved a measure prohibiting one of the worst factory farm abuses: [gestation crate](#) confinement of breeding pigs.

While gestation crates have been banned by voter initiative in [Arizona](#) and [Florida](#), Oregon's law is the first gestation crate ban enacted by a state legislature.

The landmark measure, [SB 694](#), prohibits the confinement of breeding pigs in metal gestation crates so small the animals can't turn around for months on end. The legislation has a six-year phase-out.

There are approximately 4,000 breeding sows in Oregon.

Crates Too Cruel to Support

"Gestation crates are truly cruel and inhumane, and this measure simply provides these highly intelligent and social creatures the ability to turn around and stretch their limbs," said state Sen. Ginny Burdick (D-Portland), who introduced the measure on Feb. 28. "I am pleased that my colleagues saw fit to offer a standard of care for these animals because they, too, deserve humane treatment. I was very pleased to work with The Humane Society of the United States on this issue."

Oregon's bill gained support in both the House and Senate. The House approved it in a 32-25 vote, and the Senate's approved it with an overwhelming vote of 20-9.

"Senator Burdick's determined leadership and humane sensibilities are responsible for the passage of this important bill," said Kelly Peterson, Oregon state director for The HSUS. "The measure sends a strong message to the agribusiness industry that gestation crate confinement is simply too cruel and inhumane for anyone to support."

Oregon Part of a Movement

In 2007, [Smithfield Foods](#) and [Maple Leaf Foods](#)—the United States' and Canada's largest pig producers respectively—announced that they are phasing out the use of gestation crates.

U.S. Reps. Peter DeFazio (D-Ore.) and Christopher Shays (R-Conn.) have introduced H.R. 1726, the [Farm Animal Stewardship Purchasing Act](#), which would require animal producers supplying federal programs with meat, dairy and eggs to comply with a moderate set of animal welfare standards.

[Burger King](#) and [Wolfgang Puck](#) also this year announced that they are moving away from the use of pork from producers that use gestation crates.



iStockphoto

Oregon state Sen. Burdick introduced the measure "because they, too, deserve humane treatment."

The passage of SB 694 marks a monumental advance for the animal protection movement and demonstrates that [the writing is on the wall](#) for the most abusive confinement practices.

[E-MAIL THIS PAGE](#)

See the Video

[Confinement by Crate](#)

Related Links

[Think Outside the Crate Campaign](#)

[Election '06: Animals Win in Arizona and Michigan](#)

[Voters Protect Pigs in Florida, Ban Cockfighting in Oklahoma](#)

[About Pigs](#)

[An HSUS Report: Welfare Issues with Gestation Crates for Pregnant Sows](#)

[Scientists and Experts on Gestation Crates and Sow Welfare](#)

